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and this comes from a distance, as no elephants are found within four days' march of the coast. The Elobe River pours itself into the bay by a low cataract, above which the party obtained a view of the stream, without however succeeding in obtaining any information about its upper course or its source.

On the 14th September Capt. Burton landed with Lieut. Stokes to explore the Elephant Mountain. After considerable difficulty with the chiefs on the coast, who, as usual, were unwilling that any traveller should pass beyond their own territories, the party started the following day. The path, a narrow line, led them first past some villages of bushmen, and then through an undulating country, densely wooded with a profuse variety of vegetation. Water was abundant in clear running streams, but game nowhere to be seen. The first day's march, which was much delayed by palavers at the villages, and at the ferry across the Elobe, was about 7 miles.

Leaving Labele, their night's halting-place, the next morning the party crossed a deep hollow, and began the ascent of the mountain from the south-east. The path, at first easy, soon became steep and slippery, and the wood grew thinner; and after three hours' march the summit was reached. The elevation was found by B.P. thermometer to be 1707 feet, agreeing with the trigonometrical measurement given in the chart. The party descended by a still more difficult path on the western side, and returned to the coast on the 17th.

2. *Narrative of a Journey to Odé, the Capital of the Ijebu Country, in January, 1862.* By Capt. BEDINGFELD, R.N.

THE object of the Expedition which visited Abeokuta, Porto Nuovo, and Odé, after the cession of Lagos, was to conciliate and explain to the chiefs our views in forming the colony, and to induce them to put a stop to the petty wars, and to open their roads to legitimate commerce.

The Ijebus had never before been visited by any white man, except Mr. Champneys, a Wesleyan missionary. The present party was received in a most friendly manner, and the visit was in every way satisfactory. They were much struck with the beauty of the country, the amount of cultivation, and the industry of various kinds shown by the natives. One large village contained a great number of blacksmiths, occupied in manufacturing hoes.

Captain Bedingfeld, accompanied by Lieut. Dolbin, of the *Prometheus*, and an interpreter, left Lagos on the 12th January in a

canoe, and reached Eginé, at a distance of about 35 miles, the next day. Starting again on horseback in a north-easterly direction, through forest-land extensively cleared, they reached the village of Omu, where a quarrel between one of the porters and a native nearly caused a serious affray. This was, however, prevented by the presence of mind and judgment of the officers in charge of the Expedition. The party arrived at Odé in the afternoon of the same day.

Odé is about 26 miles N.N.E. of Eginé, and is surrounded by a wall about 12 miles in circumference. The houses are substantially built of red clay. The natives are a remarkably fine tall race. Their religion is gross fetichism; and both human beings and animals are occasionally sacrificed. Their principal food is maize, which is produced in great abundance, and is sold for about 2*d.* per bushel.

3. *Travels in Western Africa.* By W. WINWOOD READE, Esq.

MR. READE left England in December, 1861, and arrived at the Gaboon on the 13th February. He first made a six days' excursion into the Shekani country on the right bank of the river. In March he went to Corisco, and thence to Bapuka, where he remained about a month. Passing on to the Muni, he followed the main stream for about 30 miles, and then branched off by a tributary which led him to the spurs of the Sierra del Crystal. In May he ascended the Gaboon, and discovered the rapids in the heart of the Crystal Mountains. He then went to the Fernando Vaz, as far as Ngambi. After a visit to Prince's and St. Thomas's Islands, he sailed in a Portuguese schooner to Loanda. Here he was hospitably received by Mr. Gabriel, a Fellow of this Society, who has, however, since fallen a victim to the climate. After a trip to the interior as far as Ambaka, he sailed to the Cape de Verde Islands, whence he crossed to Goree early in December; and after visiting the Senegal, the Casamanza, and the Gambia, he finally returned to Europe in February last.

Mr. Reade made inquiries at Loanda, respecting Dr. Livingstone's supposition that the Quango joins the Zaire, and he found that it received unanimous confirmation. But there seems to be some doubt about the position of Matiamvo; the Secretary of Benguela informed him that the kingdom known by that name is situated to the south-east of that colony, and that a more powerful prince named Domba reigns to the east of Matiamvo. This was confirmed by the Commandant of Quellengues, a Portuguese fort in the interior. Mr. Reade saw at Ambaka a runaway slave of Matiamvo's,